

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04363 091740Z

53

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSC-01 IO-03 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 723

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4363

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PO

SUBJ: MAKEUP OF NEW PORTUGUESE JUNTA

REF: A) LISBON 4352; B) LISBON 4142

SUMMARY: NEW MEMBERS OF PORTUGUESE JUNTA WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED AT OCTOBER MEETING OF COUNCIL OF STATE, WHICH EXPECTED TO EXTEND PRO FORMA APPROVAL TO NOMINEES OF ARMY AND AIR FORCE. PRESS REPORTS CONTINUE TO DWELL ON NAMES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS ARMY'S CHOICES, BUT TWO NEW NAMES HAVE CROPPED UP AS AIR FORCE SELECTEES. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT HAS NAMED "INTERIM" REPLACEMENT FOR NAVY JUNTA MEMBER ROSA COUTINHO. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04363 091740Z

1. PRESS REPORTS ON OCTOBER 9 INDICATE THAT OFFICIAL

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SALVATION JUNTA WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE MAY 15 MEETING OF COUNCIL OF STATE. COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY JUNTA MEMBERSHIP FOR TWO OFFICERS REPORTEDLY ALREADY SELECTED BY ARMY AND TWO BY AIR FORCE.

2. WHILE LISBON PRESS CONTINUES TO REPORT THAT BRIG. FABIAO AND LTC LOPES PIRES ARE ARMY'S CHOICES, NEW NAMES HAVE APPEARED (OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED REF A AS AIR FORCE'S REPRESENTATIVES. BIOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS ON ALL FOUR FOLLOW:

A. BRIG. CARLOS SOARES FABIAO WAS BORN IN LISBON IN DEC 1930. SPENT TWO YEARS ON DUTY IN ANGOLA AND TOTAL OF 12 IN GUINEA. DURING PERIOD IN WHICH GEN SPINOLA WAS GUINEA GOVERNOR/CINC, FABIAO WAS COMMANDER OF LOCAL AFRICAN MILITIA. FABIAO WAS DESIGNATED CIVIL GOVERNOR OF GUINEA AND JUNTA DELEGATE THERE SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 25, ARRIVING IN BISSAU ON MAY 7; HE HELD THIS POST UNTIL FORMAL TRANSFER OF POWER BY GOP TO GUINEAN AUTHORITIES ONE MONTH AGO, WHEN HIS FORMAL STATUS CHANGED TO THAT OF PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE IN NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRY.

B. LT. COL. FISHER LOPES PIRES COMES FROM ARMY'S ENGINEERING CORPS. HE HAS SERVED IN MOZAMBIQUE, COMMANDED FIRST ENGINEERS UNIT DURING APRIL 25 COUP AND, MOST RECENTLY, HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO ARMY'S GENERAL STAFF IN LISBON.

C. AIR FORCE BRIG. ANIBAL JOSE COENTRO DE PINHO FREIRE WAS BORN ON MARCH 4, 1935. HE ENTERED AIR FORCE IN 1953, BEING PROMOTED TO PRESENT RANK ON AUGUST 7, 1974.

D. COL. NARCISCO DE MENDES DIAS WAS BORN SEP 19, 1935. HE ENTERED AIR FORCE IN 1954 AND, LIKE PINHO FREIRE, WAS PROMOTED TO PRESENT POSITION ON AUGUST 7, 1974.

3. INDEPENDENTLY OF SELECTION PROCESS FOR FOUR EXISTING JUNTA VACANCIES, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS DESIGNATED "INTERIM" REPLACEMENTS FOR JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO (CURRENTLY SERVING AS HEAD OF JUNTA IN ANGOLA), AND COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBER LT. COMMANDER VITOR CRESPO (PORTUGAL'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN MOZAMBIQUE). ROSA COUTINHO'S INTERIM REPLACEMENT IS COMMANDER SILVANO RIBEIRO, BORN ON OCTOBER 17, 1923, KNOWN AS SUBMARINE EXPERT. LISBON DAO REPORT INDICATES RIBEIRO
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04363 091740Z

SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, AS WELL AS SPANISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN. HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE AND HAS BEEN TO US. (HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS CHIEF DE CABINET FOR NAVY CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL AZEVEDO). INTERIM REPLACEMENT FOR CRESPO IS YOUNG (BORN JUNE 18, 1948) NAVY LT. JOSE MANUEL MIGUEL JUDAS. HE ENTERED NAVY IN 1965 AND WAS PROMOTED TO CURRENT RANK ON JAN 11, 1973. HE IS A STAFF OFFICER WITH A SPECIALITY IN NAVAL ENGINEERING

(ENGENHEIRO MAQUINISTA NAVAIS).

4. COMMENT: SINCE NAMES OF TWO AIR FORCE SELECTEES APPEARED IN PRINT FOR FIRST TIME ON OCTOBER 9, IT IS TOO EARLY FOR PRESS TO BEGIN SPECULATING AS TO THEIR POLITICAL OUTLOOK AND BACKGROUND. ARMY CHOICES, HOWEVER, ARE BOTH LINKED TO GENERAL SPINOLA. WHILE FABIAO MAY NO LONGER BE PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO SPINOLA (HIS COMMENTS FAVORABLE TBRPAIGC WHILE ACTING AS GOVERNOR OF GUINEA DID NOT FIND ECHO IN SPINOLA STATEMENTS OF PERIOD), HIS EARLY CAREER WAS CLOSELY TIED TO THE GENERAL. LOPES PIRES WAS RECENTLY REFERRED TO (REF B) AS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, IN EVENT PRO-SPINOLA SCENARIO HAD SUBSTITUTED FOR ACTUAL DEVELOPMENTS OVER WEEKEND SEP 28-30. NAVY MEN ARE CLEARLY MFA ORIENTED.
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